

There is a host of other smaller projects in Tolland and Windham Counties that are included in this package. Again, I would emphasize that the total funding amount is not what some of the stuff that is out there in the media in terms of small fractions for hard infrastructure. The fact is when you incorporate the FAST Act baseline that was passed in 2015, along with the bipartisan infrastructure funding on top of it, the roads and bridges is close to 40 percent of the package. It also includes increasing and boosting the electric grid; which as we convert to electric vehicle passenger traffic, as we convert to offshore wind, which is going to be transmitting voltage to the coastline, we need to have a stronger grid.

All of that is good jobs that is going to be, again, built-in, baked-in over the next five years. It is not going to create inflationary pressures because of the fact that, again, it is spread out over a period of time.

It was a great day for our country. We came together on a bipartisan basis to get this done and now we are ready for a real 21st century growth that will be beneficial to all communities large and small.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC FIRESTORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I can't for the life of me understand why my Democrat colleagues insist on passing this multitrillion-dollar monstrosity of a tax-and-spend bill that not only I, but the American people believe will be an economic and societal disaster on so many levels.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken in countless polls and surveys and elections, not just in Virginia, New York, and New Jersey, but in my State of Texas where House seats have flipped from Democrat to Republican for the first time ever. As recent as last week, a Democrat changed parties to Republican because they cannot explain the current policies that are destructive to the ends of recovery and support the American people's freedom and our way of life.

They said as clearly as they can: No more Big Government control over our lives. That is what they said in Virginia. No more socialist spending our country into bankruptcy. No more growing the government at the expense of our freedoms and our children's future.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia, a blue State, one-third of the electorate said the economy was their number one issue. Biden won that by 10 points. They voted for a Republican Governor. Two-thirds of the American people in recent polls have said that the Biden economic plans are bad and they have no confidence in his policies. They connect his policies with the current economic conditions. The majority of

Americans attribute the inflation to Biden's failed policies, just like they do the disastrous border and the debacle in Afghanistan and in the generic ballot. The generic ballot among registered voters, there is a 10-point spread, if the elections were held today, between Democrats and Republicans. That is the highest in 40 years ever recorded.

The American people are speaking and they are crying out to their country's leaders: Relent. Relent. But they have made the connection between the policies and the disastrous effects in their lives and in the life of their country.

Enhanced employment benefits, in other words, paying people more to be on unemployment than to be at work, coupled with wasteful partisan multitrillion-dollar spending packages under the guise of COVID relief have created an economic firestorm, runaway inflation.

Real wages, 7 of the 9 months this President has been in office, have gone down. Real wages have gone down. There has been an inflation surge to the point of double-digit inflation in the last month, which have put us, over the year, at a 30-year high.

Gas prices are up 50 percent. We are almost a million jobs short of what President Biden promised as a result of that blue State bailout that he called COVID relief. This is the solution that the Democrats are offering.

Let's raise prices even more and lower wages by taxing the American people.

Let's further extend our recession by chasing jobs overseas and putting the highest tax rates in the developed world on the job creators of the United States of America.

Let's burden small businesses with higher taxes and less people willing to work.

Let's drive labor participation further down by removing the work requirement.

Let's trap more people in poverty and the cycle of dependency on government by removing the incentives to work.

Let's wipe out 20 or 30 percent of the workforce by thrusting a Big Government mandate that is unconstitutional, overreaching, and would destroy any prospects for recovery.

Mr. Speaker, this was supposed to be about income inequality, but if you read the tax bill—and I don't know how my progressive colleagues can look the American people in the eyes with a straight face and say that this is not a swampy, special-interest package of the century, because they have tax breaks for the wealthy by raising the SALT deductions. They give tax breaks to green industry, to unions, to plaintiffs' attorneys, to media corporations. That is all legitimate. That is all true.

If you look close enough, that is what this is about. Not to mention they stuffed the stocking with early Christmas presents for progressives and political allies of the Democratic

Party—amnesty for 8 million people while our southern border is melting down; unionization of every employee, every employer, every State in the country; Obamacare subsidies for people making hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the list is too long. I implore my Democrat colleagues to relent and stop this. Let's get back to work on behalf of the American people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BATOUL ALFADAWI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Batoul Alfadawi, a resident of Dearborn Heights in Michigan's 13th District.

Her life was tragically cut short at the age of 6 years old from a hit-and-run. Batoul was a sweet girl with a beautiful soul. She had a huge enthusiasm for life and a joyful spirit. Batoul loved learning, spending time with her family, and playing with her friends. I know her parents and six siblings will miss her immensely.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the memory of Batoul, and please say a prayer for her family.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson whose heroic service as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II was recognized earlier this week in the rededication ceremony of Jefferson Field in our district.

I was proud to be there in his presence. It was also his 100th birthday. He is a graduate of Detroit public schools, like myself. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson pursued a military career and completed pilot training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield.

As a fighter pilot with the Red Tail, 332nd Fighter Group 301st Fighter Squadron, his unit escorted bombers headfirst into the action, bravely providing protection from vicious enemy aircraft. They never lost a single plane.

Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 1944, Jefferson was shot down and captured by the Germans and kept as a prisoner of war for 9 months. Liberated by American forces on the 29th of April 1945 and discharged from Active Duty in 1947, he retired from the Reserves in 1969.

After serving, Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson then became a science teacher in Detroit, where he then retired in 1979. At his ceremony, my teacher in high school came up to me and said he was very proud of the accomplishment I had. He said, Guess what, Lieutenant Jefferson was my science teacher and my elementary teacher, and now seeing you up there, I know that he was part of creating that seed and creating more leadership and really strength within the city of Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, he has received numerous awards for his bravery, and I am

truly honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson on his celebration of service to our country. It was his 100th birthday. We sang happy birthday to him, and he danced along with many of us, even in the crisp cold in the city of Detroit, in the middle of the field.

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RECOGNIZING HASSAN JABER

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize numerous contributions of Hassan Jaber to the communities of Wayne County, Michigan, as he retires after more than 40 years of service to ACCESS.

During his time in ACCESS, Hassan Jaber has been a leader in expanding its programming to include more than 100 platforms in 10 locations to assist residents across the region.

He has created partnerships locally and nationally to advocate for policy initiatives to fight bigotry, advance civil rights, and create a better quality of life for immigrants and other vulnerable populations.

I know Hassan Jaber personally. With every obstacle, he never wavered in leading with compassion and keeping the community at the center of his work.

Hassan Jaber's leadership and forward-thinking approach have solidified his legacy as a community leader. His mentorship helped me grow into the passionate advocate I am today.

Please join me in recognizing Hassan Jaber's work on behalf of residents of Michigan's 13th Congressional District and southeastern Michigan as we wish him well on the next chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD LONGENECKER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Longenecker and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Longenecker is a World War II veteran who has a steadfast love and devotion to God, his family, and his country.

He is from my hometown of Victoria, Texas. Today, we honor him for his service to the United States Army Air Corps as a radio operator and nose gunner on the B-24 bomber in the 451st Bomb Group, 726th Squadron.

During World War II, on July 14, 1944, he and his fellow airmen traveled to Petfurdo, Hungary, for their 29th combat mission. What they expected to be a routine mission was anything but when they began to receive anti-aircraft fire that took out two of the aircraft's engines. From the nose gunner position, he received word that they were dropping elevation very quickly. The pilot made the call urging everyone to jump. Mr. Longenecker headed to the flight deck to retrieve his parachute.

On the flight deck, he saw his ball gunner about to jump and gave him a good luck salute. Then Mr. Longenecker jumped.

Everyone who jumped before him was captured, but he landed on top of a hill and began taking on heavy fire from Yugoslav soldiers that were sympathetic to the Germans.

He made his way to a nearby forest line, crawled under a briar bush, and stayed under that bush until nightfall. That first night, he slept near a lake. The second night, he stayed in a pile of hay where he could hear a group of people playing the guitar and singing. To him, this was one of the most beautiful sounds he had heard simply because there wasn't a sign of war anywhere.

On the third day, he ran out of the wood cover and met a young boy. This boy took him to a nearby village where he ate, bathed, and rested. Eventually, Mr. Longenecker was taken to a house where an American lieutenant was waiting. Upon his safe arrival, he was informed that he had miraculously walked through an active minefield unscathed.

It is incredible to think how his life could have been cut short, but it has lasted these 100 years.

After serving in the military, Ed Longenecker became an electrical engineer and lived a long, full life, married to his wife, Marie, for 59 years until she passed in 2006. He has two daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I know many of them, and they are a precious, honorable family, truly a legacy.

Edward Longenecker is a true American hero, and we are indebted to him for his great service to our Nation. It is an honor to celebrate his life today. I hope he has a wonderful 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMA FINK ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary trailblazer, philanthropist, and public servant in south Florida, Mrs. Norma Fink, on her 100th birthday.

Born Norma Mager, in the Bronx, New York, on November 16, 1921, Norma has spent a century giving back to those around her. In 1942, Norma graduated from New York University with a bachelor's degree in economics and a minor in geology, the only woman to graduate with that honor at the time.

Shortly after, she put her degree to work by joining the Department of War to assist with the military supply chain while her husband, Robert Fink, served in our Nation's Armed Forces during World War II.

After the war, Norma worked in her father's bakery, Mager and Throne Bread Bakery. During this time, she became enamored with jazz music and

made friends with many local musicians who were involved with the civil rights movement. Inspired by their work, Norma began contributing the money she made to support civil rights initiatives in the South. This became an ongoing passion of hers.

After moving to Plantation, Florida, in 1972, Norma continued her legacy of supporting the enrichment of the community by joining the city's Parks and Recreation Department, where she still works at the age of 100.

Additionally, she began spending her time and money supporting local charities. Following the loss of her daughter, Marian, to breast cancer in 2002, Norma dedicated herself to helping others suffering from cancer.

Norma's spirit of persistence, generosity, and service to her community is an inspiration to all of us in south Florida. It is an inspiration to generations of Americans.

To honor her legacy, the city of Plantation, her home for nearly half a century, has designated Norma Fink Day in honor of the oldest and longest part-time employee in that city's history.

I join the entire south Florida community in wishing Norma Fink a happy 100th birthday surrounded by her loved ones. I thank her for her dedication to bettering the lives of everyone in south Florida.

MAKING HISTORY WITH BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historic day yesterday in this Nation's history.

The legislation that the President signed into law was overwhelmingly bipartisan in the Senate, and it was overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Why? Because it is the largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the Interstate Highway System. It is the largest investment in public transit and passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak.

It expands broadband to every corner of our country so that every American has access to reliable, high-speed internet.

It secures clean water, making the largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in American history.

This is what we have been clamoring for, in a bipartisan way, as long as I have been serving in this Congress. Yesterday, President Biden delivered. He did it with the bipartisan support of the Senate and the overwhelming support of the American people.

Unfortunately, in this Chamber, my colleagues on the other side view any sort of bipartisan effort like that as too difficult to support, too difficult to stand with the Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, too difficult to stand with Democrats here, and too difficult, apparently, to stand with the America people in moving forward with a massive infrastructure plan that will help strengthen every community across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud that this House joined with the Senate in sending this legislation to President Biden.